

TOP SECRET

SENSITIVE

10 March 1969

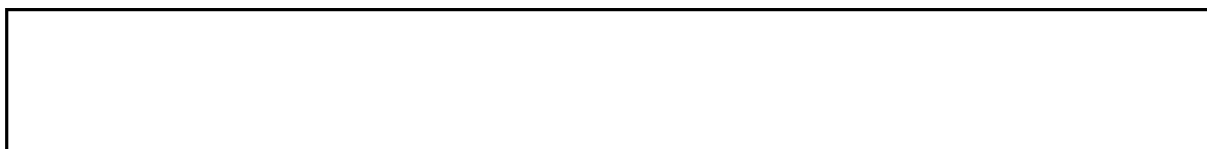
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 10 March 1969

DD/I noted that Wednesday's NSC meeting is scheduled to foment guidance for the ACDA with respect to the eighteen-nation disarmament treaty and that there is no requirement for the Director to brief.

The Director asked for a status report on his briefing materials for Thursday's briefing of the full Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and was advised that the materials will be ready sometime tomorrow.

Godfrey reported the possible identification of two new regiments within the DMZ and indications of a new division being located south of the area. He noted that OCI and NSA analysts are examining this matter, which he termed a significant indicator that the Communists may be moving two divisions directly across the DMZ.



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[] alerted the Director to JCS 4184 to CINCPAC which rescinds the restriction placed on naval operations north of 20'N latitude for psychological purposes and to test NVN reaction to the threat of the resumption of air and naval bombardment.

DD/S reported that work is under way to distribute via an all-employee Bulletin the text of President Nixon's remarks before the Agency auditorium audience last Friday. The Director indicated that he will personally extend his appreciation to [] for a job well done in making the necessary arrangements for the President's visit.

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Carver called attention to an excellent Saigon station [] message, and in response to the Director's question, the DD/I noted that this message was the basis for [] item on the enemy's current offensive.

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Carver reported that there was a slight increase in NVN/VC activity over the weekend.

Carver reported that he met with Congressman Riegle following the latter's return from Vietnam. It appears that the Congressman's primary interest was to identify the real decision-makers with respect to Vietnam, and Carver related that he simply responded by pointing to the NSC machinery.

Maury reported Bill Woodruff's suggestion that the Russell committee now concern itself with the Pueblo and therein thwart any initiative by Senator Fulbright. According to Ed Braswell, Senator Stennis is not really as interested in the Pueblo as he once was. The Director suggested that the Agency take no initiative in these matters and simply be alert to further developments.

Maury called attention to Senator Ervin's letters of 4 and 5 March concerning the merits of an open or closed hearing on the Agency's position vis-a-vis the Ervin bill. Maury read from Senator Ervin's letter of 5 March and noted the Senator's suggestion that the Agency provide draft amendments to those portions of the bill which it finds objectionable.

Bross noted receipt of information suggesting that General Maxwell Taylor will be reconfirmed as Chairman of PFIAB.

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*The Director noted receipt of a letter from General Wheeler concerning Agency participation in a projected war game and asked D/ONE to identify Agency participants and draft a reply.

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The Director noted that he appeared before the closing session of the most recent Midcareer Course and that a number of questions were asked with respect to the applicability of the management grid system, etc. The Director asked that [] arrange for the Director of Training to brief the Morning Meeting on what may be bothering Midcareer trainees.

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Goodwin noted he has established that Mr. Carroll Kilpatrick, author of the Washington Post item Saturday on the President's defense of the Agency, is President of the White House Press Corps.

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Ja L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

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President Praises CIA As Instrument of Peace

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon went to the defense of the Government's most secret and defenseless agency yesterday and said that it is "one of the great instruments" for preserving peace.

He was talking about the Central Intelligence Agency in the CIA auditorium before an unusually appreciative and demonstrative audience.

But the CIA employees outdid most of the others in the enthusiasm of their welcome and the Chief Executive was unreserved in his praise of the clandestine agency's work.

The President later flew to Florida, telling reporters en route that he planned a long weekend of rest, relaxation and study of a briefcase full of reports and memoranda on the Sentinel anti-ballistic missile program.

At his televised news conference Tuesday, Mr. Nixon said that he would announce his decision early next week on whether to go ahead with a limited ABM system.

During his talk to CIO employees, the President said the agency has a mission that "runs counter to some of the deeply held traditions in this

country. The American people don't like war. They don't like secrecy. They don't like cold war."

But he said that "it is necessary for those who make decisions at the highest level to have the very best possible intelligence so that the margin of error will to that extent be reduced."

The American people should understand, he said, that the CIA "is a necessary adjunct of the Presidency." He quoted a message former President Truman sent the CIA calling it "absolutely necessary to any President of the United States—from one who knows."

"I know, and I appreciate what you do," Mr. Nixon added.

Presents Medals

The President told the CIA officials that he had had "the great honor" earlier in the day to present Medals of Honor to three Army enlisted men.

There will be no medals and no recognition for heroic work done by CIA officials, he said. "Your successes will never be made public and your failures will always be public," he said.

"I recognize that, and I am deeply grateful to those of

you who make that kind of sacrifice."

The President presented his first Medals of Honor at an East Room ceremony to Staff Sgt. Joe R. Hooper of Saugus, Calif., Spec. 5 Clarence E. Sasser of Rosharon, Tex., and Sgt. Fred W. Zablitosky of Trenton, N.J., for heroic service in Vietnam.

These soldiers, the President said, are "men who faced death and instead of losing their courage gave courage to their fellow men."

Later, the President met with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Policy and named a task force to investigate "dramatic" increases in Douglas fir and plywood prices.

Budget Director Robert P. Mayo was named chairman of the task force to identify the causes of the price increases, to recommend immediate corrective action, and to recommend a long-term policy to facilitate supply and demand adjustments in the industry.

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that fir and plywood prices had increased from 30 to 92 per cent in a year's time, causing inflationary pressures in the whole construction industry.

The President met with Librarian Vice President William Richard Tolbert, who is in the country to attend a meeting of the World Baptist Alliance.

Nomination of Governor

In another action, the President announced that he would nominate Peter A. Bove, a one-time Republican candidate for Governor of Vermont and since 1957 comptroller of the Virgin Islands, as Governor of the islands.

If confirmed, Bove will succeed Ralph M. Palewonsky, a Democrat, who resigned Feb. 12.

President Nixon was greeted by a small crowd of military personnel and their families when he arrived at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., and he spent about 10 minutes shaking hands along the fence.

Accompanying Mr. Nixon on the flight here were H. R. Haldeman, assistant to the President, John Ehrlichman, special counsel and his wife, appointments secretary Dwight Chapin, and the President's physician, Air Force Col. Walter Tkach. Mrs. Nixon remained in Washington.

The President is expected to return Monday.